

**MINUTES OF THE
ENERGY POLICY TASK FORCE**

Thursday, February 5, 2004 – 4:30 p.m. – Room 129 State Capitol

Members Present:

Sen. Leonard M. Blackham, Senate Chair
Rep. Sheryl L. Allen, House Chair
Sen. Gregory S. Bell
Sen. Mike Dmitrich
Sen. Ed P. Mayne
Rep. Ralph Becker
Rep. Chad E. Bennion
Rep. Bradley G. Last
Rep. Ty McCartney
Rep. David Ure

Members Absent:

Sen. Dan R. Eastman

Staff Present:

Mr. Mark Steinagel, Policy Analyst
Ms. Patricia Owen, Associate General Counsel
Ms. Wendy Bangerter, Legislative Secretary

Note: A list of others present and a copy of materials can be found at <http://www.image.le.state.ut.us/imaging/history.asp> or by contacting the task force secretary, Wendy Bangerter, at 538-1032.

1. Task Force Business

Sen. Blackham called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m. He welcomed the representatives from PacifiCorp and explained that they were invited to discuss December's widespread power outage and what they are doing to remedy the problems.

2. December 2003 Power Outages

Mr. Richard Walje, Senior Executive for Utah, PacifiCorp, distributed PacifiCorp's presentation and gave a brief overview of their presentation, including an overview of the storm, the extent of the outages, and customer calls and feedback they have received from their customers. He reviewed an event time line indicating when they began responding to the storm and what took place in the days following the storm. Ms. Karen Gilmore, Managing Director of Customer Service, PacifiCorp, discussed how PacifiCorp's customer service system should work and why it failed in December. She reviewed their efforts to work around the technology failures to answer customer calls.

Mr. Doug Bennion, Director of Transmission, PacifiCorp, explained the restoration system, including their fusing schemes attached to every transformer and how they can pinpoint outages. He reviewed their project schedule for identifying and gathering data related to the outages.

Mr. Walje reviewed the investments they have made since the year 2000 as they continue to recognize their weaknesses and address them. They continue to have community meetings to give customers the opportunity to vent their feelings and receive a full disclosure from PacifiCorp of what happened and their efforts to try to prevent future problems.

The panel fielded questions and received suggestions from the Task Force members. They agreed that capital investments and maintenance have not been funded adequately in recent years, but they have new

commitment to rectify that problem. They indicated that information will continually become available to the public as they attempt to evaluate the event and pinpoint problems areas.

Sen. Bell encouraged them to make sure their planning model includes catastrophic planning.

MOTION: Rep. Allen moved to commend the front-line employees of PacifiCorp for their devotion and attendance to duty during the power outage. The motion passed unanimously with Rep. Becker absent for the vote.

MOTION: Rep. Allen moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.
Chair Blackham adjourned the meeting at 5:40 p.m.